Plate No. 15.

BUFFALO HUNT, ON SNOW-SHOES.

In this plate is illustrated the mode alluded to in the preceding page, of the Indians hunting in the depth of winter, running on their snow-shoes, which support them on the surface of the snow, whilst the great weight of the buffalo and other animals sinks them down and fastens them in the drifts of the snow, where they fall easy victims to the arrows and lances of their cruel pursuers.

The Indians are induced to slay these noble animals for their skins, which, when manufactured into robes, are vended to white men in vast quantities, for rum and whiskey; and as the fur is longer and more valuable, and the animals more easily slain at this inclement season of the year than at any other, it is then that the wholesale slaughter takes place, which is rapidly thinning their ranks, and will soon extinguish their species in North America.

Plate No. 16.

WOUNDED BUFFALO BULL.

The reader has here, a striking illustration of the deadly effects of the Indian's arrow, and also an emphatic representation of one of the largest specimens of the buffalo bull, shot through the heart, at his last halt; his legs bending under his great weight, and his huge carcase ready to tumble down from loss of blood, which is pouring from his nostrils and mouth, as well as from the wounds in his side. Not only shot, but pinioned, by the arrows of the hunter, (who has already counted him amongst his victims and passed on to claim others of the throng,) the bull is thus left to struggle with death; and in that struggle, hobbles and reels along but a brief distance, wheezing and sighing through streams of frothy blood until he sinks upon his haunches, where he invariably rests for a few moments, bracing up with his fore legs, the noblest object of pity, until his last deep-drawn breath is gushed out, when he falls, and rolls in death, without a kick or struggle.

Plate No. 17.

BUFFALO HUNT. DYING BULL IN A SNOW-DRIFT.

In this view the reader is introduced to the ultimum of dreariness and severity which the hunters of the northern prairies have to contend with in the depths of winter. An intensely cold day, with dry and sand-like snow three or four feet in depth, drifting before the wind, and a herd of buffaloes labouring to plough their way through it, whilst they are urged on by a party of Indians on snow-shoes, deeply clad in furs, and dealing death to them with their spears.

The dying bull in the foreground of this picture, and that in the preceding plate, were carefully sketched by my own hand whilst the animals were thus struggling with death; and I therefore confidently offer them as faithful delineations of their forms and looks, as well as fit and impressive subjects for contemplation for those who may ever have the time, and feel disposed to sympathize with the cruel destruction and extinction of this useful and noble animal.

Plate No. 18.

THE BEAR DANCE.

Next in importance to the buffalo hunts, and not less exciting and spirited in its character, is the mode of hunting the Bear. Several varieties of this bold and ferocious species are found joint occupants with Man, the buffalo, and other animals, through the various wild latitudes of America; and, like the others, their skins and their flesh contribute largely to man's comfort and subsistence.

The bear, so different in its habits and haunts from the buffalo, is entrapped and hunted by the Indians in a greater variety of modes than the buffalo, though their hunting excursions for this animal are often on horseback; and when in pursuit of the Grizzly Bear, the most formidable and dangerous animal of the brute creation to be met in the prairies and forests of America, the hunters deem it most prudent to be mounted on their horses' backs, instead of trusting to their own legs in contention with so awkward and dangerous an enemy.